

Message Text

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ACTION DLOS-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00

CIAE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04

RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20 CEQ-02 COA-02 COME-00 EB-11

EPA-04 IO-14 NSF-04 SCI-06 FEAE-00 ACDA-19 AEC-11

AECE-00 AGR-20 DOTE-00 FMC-04 INT-08 JUSE-00 OMB-01

TRSE-00 OPR-02 DRC-01 /201 W
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O 041605Z JUN 74

FM AMEMBASSY ATHENS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3635

INFO SECDEF IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY ANKARA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY NICOSIA IMMEDIATE

AMCONSUL THESSALONIKI IMMEDIATE

USMISSION NATO IMMEDIATE

USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE 1049

CINCUSAFE IMMEDIATE

USDOCOSOUTH IMMEDIATE

USCINCEUR IMMEDIATE

USMNR SHAPE IMMEDIAEE

CINCUSAREUR IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L ATHENS 3394

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PBOR, PFOR TU GR

SUBJECT: LAW OF THE SEA: POTENTIAL USG-GOG DISUPUTE ON
QUESTION OF ISLANDS

REF: ATHENS 2926

1. PROFESSOR GEORGE ZOTIADIS, CHAIRMAN GOVERMENT

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INTERMINISTERIAL COMMITTEE ON LAW OF THE SEA, REPEATED TO

EMBOFF ON JUNE 4 HIS PRIOR REQUEST TO ASCERTAIN WHETHER
INR RESEARCH STUDY "ISLANDS: NORMAL AND SPECIAL
CIRCUMSTANCES" (RGES-3 DATED DECEMBER 10, 1973).
CONSTITUTES OFFICIAL US POLICY ON QUESTION OF ISLANDS.
(REFTEL REQUESTED THIS INFORMATION).

2. ZOTIADIS WAS ORIGINALLY GIVEN A COPY OF THIS
STUDY BY ITS AUTHOR ROBERT HODGSON (DEPARTMENT
GEORGRAPHER) WITH UNDERSTANDING THAT IT WAS WRITTEN
PRIMARILY FROM "GEOGRAPHICAL VIEWPOINT" AND NOT WITH A
VIEW TOWARD INTERPRETING OR LAYING OUT INTERNATIONAL
LAW ON SUBJECT OF ISLANDS. HOWEVER, ZOTIADIS LEARNED IN
MID-MAY THAT ON APRIL 16, 1974 THE STUDY WAS DISSEMINATED
AS A "NEWS RELEASE" BY DEPARTMENT'S BUREAU OF PUBLIC
AFFAIRS (OFFICE MEDIA SERVICES). ZOTIADIS EXPRESSED
VIEW IN STRONG TERMS THAT IF THIS STUDY NOW IN FACT
CONSTITUTES USG POLICY ON ISLANDS, IT WILL BECOME A
SOURCE OF REAL CONTROVERSEY BETWEEN USG AND GOG.
HE ASKED EMBOFF TO "TELL AMBASSADOR TASCA THAT THIS IS
A MATTER OF REAL CONCERN TO GOG -- NOT ONLY TO
INTERMINISTERIAL COMMITTEE BUT ALSO TO GOVERNMENT
AS A WHOLE."

3. ONE OF ZOTIADIS' CHIEF CONCERNS WITH INR STUDY
RELATED TO THESIS THAT ISLANDS COULD BE CLASSIFIED
AS EITHER ROCKS, ISLETS, ISLES OR ISLANDS -- (DEFINITION
DEPENDENT ON TOTAL AREA) AND THAT SUCH CLASSIFICATION
TOGETHER WITH OTHER FACTORS, 3. G. POPULATION,
RELATIONSHIP TO MAINLAND, CONFIGURATION, ETC. COULD
HAVE SIGNIFICANT EFFECT ON SUCH CRITICAL MATTERS AS
TERRITORIAL SEA OR CONTINENTAL SHELF DELIMITATIONS.
ZOTIADIS ARGUED THAT GREECE WITH "SOME 3,054 ISLANDS" --
MANY OF WHICH SUPPORTED ONLY SMALL POPULATIONS (A NATURAL
PHENOMENON IN ZOTIADIS VIEW IN THAT GREECE IS UNDER-
POPULATED) WOULD BE SUBJECTED TO INJUSTICE SHOULD
PRINCIPLES SET FORTH BY HODGSON BE WIDELY ACCEPTED.
HE CHARACTERIZED SUCH PROPOSALS AS SIMILAR TO THOSE
PREVIOUSLY MADE BY TURKEY AND/OR TUNISIA AT PREVIOUS
LOS CONFERENCES, AND ADDED "IF THE US LINES UP WITH
TURKEY, WE WILL HAVE PROBLEMS".

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4. ZOTIADIS STATED THAT DISSEMINATION INR STUDY BY
DEPT BUREAU OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS CAME AS SURPRISE
AND EXPRESSED HOPE THAT IT DOES NOT REFLECT FACT THAT
USG HAS NOW ADOPTED AS POLICY PROPOSALS CONTAINED IN
REPORT. HE COMMENTED THAT SO FAR USDEL "HAS SAID
NOTHING" ON QUESTION OF ISLANDS AT VARIOUS LOS CONFERENCES,
AND HE SUGGESTED THAT IT WOULD BE STRINGENT FOR US

POLICY TO BE SURFACED IN SUCH A WAY AS "NEWS RELEASE"
BY DEPARTMENT.

5. IN VIEW OF CURRENT SENSITIVITY ENTIRE AGEAN
CONTROVERSY AND GIVEN IMMINENCE OF LOS CONFERENCE
CARACAS EMBASSY URGENTLY REQUESTS DEPARTMENT COMMENT
AND RESPONSE TO ABOVE QUESTIONS.

6. POSSIBLE IMPLICATION ZOTIADIS' REMARKS WAS THAT
GOG SUPPORT FOR CERTAIN MATTERS US CONSIDERS VITAL
IN UPCOMING LOS CONFERENCE COULD BE AFFECTED BY THIS
US POSITION OF ISLANDS. WHILE DEPARTMENT 046773
(PARA 8) REFERRED TO INR STUDY AND SUGGESTED WHOLE
TOPIC A SENSITIVE ONE, IN LIGHT OF ZOTIADIS CONCERN,
EMBASSY BELIEVES IT IS IN US INTEREST TO GIVE HIM
RESPONSE BEFORE MATTER ESCALATED BY OTHER SECTIONS GOG.
TASCA

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